



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Steering Group Meeting
10.30am 19th March 2019

Berwick Harbour Office, Tweed Dock, Berwick upon Tweed

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

David Feige (Chair)	DF	Northumberland County Council
Andy Tharme	AT	Scottish Borders Council
Nick Brodin	NB	Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP
Malcolm Fraser	MF	Scottish Natural Heritage
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Natalie Wallace	NW	Northumberland IFCA
Jane Lancaster	JL	National Trust

Apologies:

Neil Robinson	NR	Marine Management Organisation
Zara Ravenscroft	ZR	Environment Agency
Gwen Potter	GP	National Trust
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA

DF welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Berwick Harbour Commission for the use of the room and lunch.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The actions from the last Steering Group in November 2018 were reviewed. These are summarised in the table below:

Action	Who	Status
Contact NB if you would like to arrange a training session about MPAs and the Marine Nature Partnership's new online toolkit	All	Ongoing
ZR to forward NB details of the Tyne Estuary Partnership	ZR	Complete

NB to circulate a copy of a map showing the extent of the fixed gear reserve around St Abbs	NR	Complete
NB to contact the St Abbs VMR and invite them to join the Marine Nature Partnership	NB	Complete
CS to forward details of the St Abbs monitoring transect to NB	CS	
Let NB have details of any upcoming events or initiatives that they would like the Marine Nature Partnership to promote via social media	All	Ongoing
Let NB know of any hashtags that you would like to see used in social media posts	All	Ongoing

NB will forward details of the fixed-gear reserve at Eyemouth to MF. **Action NB**

NB confirmed that St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR) had accepted the invitation to join the partnership.

NB has contacted active beach litter surveyors to express the thanks of the partnership for their work.

The action on the St Abbs monitoring transect was for CS, not SC as written. This has now been corrected. NB will forward CS the contact details for the St Abbs VMR. **Action NB**

DF reported that the MMO had decided not to pursue the setting up of a new coastal partnership for the Northumberland coast.

3. Officer Update

A written update was included with the papers for the meeting. NB talked the Steering Group through the highlights of this. Much of NB's effort since the last meeting has been taken up with finalising the content of the new online toolkit.

The Marine Nature Partnership has assisted the MMO with its latest round of consultation workshops on iteration 3 of the North East Marine Plan. NB facilitated a table at the Newcastle workshop on the 29th January. Jane Delany co-chaired the event in her role as MNP Chair.

4. Online toolkit progress and training proposals

The MNP's new website/online toolkit went live in January and will be updated regularly. Any feedback on the site is welcome.

The website was created with funding from HLF and Natural England. There was a slight underspend in the HLF grant and the local office has been in touch to ask if the partnership

would like a short project extension to use up the remainder of the money. NIFCA, who are acting as lead applicant for the grant on behalf of the partnership, have confirmed that they would be able to accommodate a project extension. NB has some idea of how the remaining money could be spent, including running additional training events and commissioning some e-learning materials for the toolkit which he will work up as a proposal for HLF.

AT suggested holding a webinar rather than a training event at a physical location as this might allow for greater attendance. NB will look into this and incorporate into his proposal.

5. Stakeholder Engagement in SE Northumberland/North Tyneside

Natural England have provided funding to carry out stakeholder engagement work in south east Northumberland/North Tyneside. The aim of the work is to identify any additional stakeholders whose activities may impact on marine protected areas in this part of the partnership areas and to engage with them further about the interest features and pressures on the site(s). The work is slightly behind schedule due to work on the new website taking longer than anticipated. NB will be attending the Port of Blyth Users Liaison Group Meeting on the 21st March to discuss marine protected areas and meeting with EA and Groundwork on 26th March to discuss opportunities on the Blyth estuary. Other meetings with stakeholders will be organised for the first quarter of 2019/20 and these will be used to inform the updating/expansion of the current EMS Management Scheme.

NB also hopes to commission some interpretation/visualisation materials to help non-specialists understand the important marine features found on this part of the coast. CS mentioned that Natural England had previously commissioned underwater footage from around the English coast. Some of this is available to view on YouTube but CS will investigate whether the footage can be shared with partners for use **ACTION CS**

MF will also investigate whether SNH hold any underwater footage which is freely available **ACTION MF**

6. Updating the current EMS Management Scheme

NB has made a start on updating of the current Management Scheme as agreed at the last meeting, although progress has been slow due to work on the new website. The revised scheme will cover the full geographic extent of the Marine Nature Partnership's interest.

7. Marine Litter

NB circulated an initial breakdown of the results of beach litter surveys undertaken in the last year by the Marine Nature Partnership (SE Northumberland/North Tyneside) and by the St Abbs VMR (Berwickshire). Coast Care have also undertaken a large number of beach litter

surveys in north Northumberland and have published their results at [http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/files/Downloads/Litter_report%20 Final.pdf](http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/files/Downloads/Litter_report%20Final.pdf)

NB is current writing up a full report of the work but the headline findings include:

- Volumes of beach litter found appear to have decreased since the 2007 surveys of the EMS although the types of litter found are broadly similar
- Plastic pollution is the main type of beach litter found. The majority of this was in the form of plastic pieces
- There has been an increase in the presence of sanitary items in all areas since 2007. The biggest contributor to this was wet wipes

The Steering Group discussed potential next steps. Social media could be used to reinforce some of the messages about how waste items are disposed of. This could be particularly relevant given the increase in the occurrence of sanitary items in survey results, many of which will be the result of inappropriate items being introduced into the domestic sewage system. JL mentioned that Surfers Against Sewage have a number of online videos that could be used and also recommended that photos of the impacts of litter be taken when these are come across.

NW reported that there is a National Angling Line Recycling Scheme which is supported by Sussex IFCA and which NIFCA is interested in.

8. Research Questions and Data Needs

At the annual meeting of the full Marine Nature Partnership in December it was agreed to hold a meeting to identify knowledge gaps or research questions that partnership members would like to work jointly to resolve.

To aid this, NB has circulated a requisition for members to identify any knowledge gaps they would like to see filled. The response has been poor but a list of responses received to date was circulated. If any Steering Group members have anything to add to this then please let NB know **ACTION ALL**.

A workshop to discuss the issue will be arranged before the summer. Berwick was identified as a potential central location for this.

9. Partnership Finance

NB informed the Steering Group that funding letters for 2019/20 had gone out to members.

10. Updates from Partners

Northumberland County Council: The new Local Plan for Northumberland will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in May. Examination in Public anticipated in the autumn.

Recruitment of staff for the Coastal Mitigation Scheme is expected in the autumn. The Scheme will be run jointly with North Tyneside Council.

SNH: SNH staff have recently held a workshop with Marine Scotland Inshore Fisheries Team. The feedback from Marine Scotland on this has been positive.

NIFCA: Mussel surveys at Lindisfarne are being carried out on the 21st and 22nd of March. Fish survey of the River Aln will be held in May and done as a training course. Anyone who would like to take part please let NW know. MCZ assessments for Coquet to St Mary's are ongoing.

Natural England: CS is waiting to hear about grant in aid for marine work for 2019/20 financial year. Tweed Estuary condition assessments are currently going through the internal checking process and will then be put on the [Designated Sites View website](#).

Scottish Borders Council: Consultation on the Scottish Borders Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan closed in November. No objections were received and the document is likely to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance under delegated powers.

AT also reported that a Sea The Change group had been set up in Eyemouth.

National Trust: The Farne Islands reopens for the 2019 season on 30th March. The Long Nanny tern colony near Beadnell will reopen in May.

10. AOB

Neil Robinson is retiring at the end of the month. The Steering Group expressed their thanks to Neil for his work for the Marine Nature Partnership over the years and wished him well in his retirement. The MMO place on the Steering Group will be taken by Patrick Gray

NIFCA now have a general email address for environmental matters:
environmental@nifca.gov.uk

AT has received reports of possible commercial winkling at Burnmouth. MF advised that any unlicensed hand-gathering in the intertidal areas should be reported to the local Police Wildlife Liaison Officer in the first instance.

The Borderlands Project, which deals with economic regeneration and which covers a large part of the Marine Nature Partnership's area, has been awarded £345 million from Government.

Table of actions from meeting

Action	Who	Status
CS to forward details of the St Abbs monitoring transect to NB	CS	
MF to find out if any sea cave monitoring planned and let CS know	MF	
MF to update Steering Group on any future developments regarding the proposed squid fishery at St Abbs	MF	
NB will forward details of the fixed-gear reserve at Eyemouth to MF.	NB	Complete
NB will forward CS the contact details for the St Abbs VMR	NB	Complete
CS to check whether Natural England underwater footage is available and can be shared with the Marine Nature Partnership	CS	
MF to look at what underwater footage might be available from SNH	MF	Complete
Let NB know of any data gaps or research questions that need to be addressed	All	